CMS 145: COMPOSITION ASSIGNMENT RUBRIC – Spring 2026

	5 EXCEPTIONAL	4 GOOD	3 AVERAGE	2 BELOW AVERAGE	1 LIMITED	0 POOR
Composition 12 Shots (5 pts. maximum each shot) (60 pts. max)	An excellent, memorable example of the specific composition technique required for the assignment. Shot is steady (mounted on tripod or other anchoring device), subjects are well framed, and clearly defined. Smooth camera movement; action is followed appropriately. Still photos included. This shot can be used for future examples.	A good example, with slight compositional and/or operational flaws. Camera shot is steady and camera movement is smooth. This shot can easily be fixed to achieve a score of 5.	Shot is not particularly memorable. There is evidence of compositional technique but subjects are too undefined to draw attention. Camera shot is steady and camera movement is smooth for the most part but a bit erratic in some shots.	There is a composition but the technique is undefined and incorrectly conceived. There is no evidence of tripod use. Camera movement is erratic and pans and zooms are not consistent or out of place.	This shot demonstrates no attempt at compositional technique. There is no evidence of tripod use. Camera movement is erratic at best and completely unmotivated.	Shot was not recorded.
	20 EXCEPTIONAL					
Editing (20 pts. max) 1pt deducted for each error.	Overall impact of project demonstrates effective pacing and tone. Shots presented in					

	required order. Fade transitions are used and shots color balanced. Audio and video fade to black at end.					
	10-9 EXCEPTIONAL	**8-7 GOOD**	**6-5 AVERAGE**	**4-3 BELOW AVERAGE**	**2-1 LIMITED**	**0 POOR**
Creativity/ Effort (10 pts. max)	Student went out of his/her way to make sure every shot was memorable, taking great care in presenting top quality imagery and a seamless edit.	Student clearly invested time and effort to cover a wide range of locations from unique and interesting perspectives and rendered a consistent edit.	Student invested time and effort behind some shots but not all. Edit was coherent but unexceptional.	Project was completed but no real effort was made to make each shot memorable or to present a coherent edit.	Effort was haphazard at best, and project seemed to be completed at the very last moment.	No creativity/effort evident whatsoever. Project was not completed at all or to specifications outlined herein.
	10	**5**	**0**			
Delivery (10 pts. max)	Project is exported and delivered in H.264 format in the required length at the beginning of class time.	1 element from first column is missing.	Project not delivered in proper format or on time.	.		

CMS 145-01, Spring 2026
Composition Assignment Graded Rubric
Name: Mason

I. Composition Skills

Shot Type – 5 pts max	*Score*	*Comments*
Establishing Shot	2	Library signage is visible but cut off on the right side of the frame. Would like to have the establishing shot reveal a wider perspective of the building to demonstrate size/scale. Distracting camera movement (all shots should be stationary and/or on a tripod).
Leading Lines	5	(using 0:31) Nice use of walkway to create the lines and love how they converge on the subject sitting on the bench.
Leading Looks	5	(using 0:47). Love this shot. A creative interpretation of the technique.
Frame/Frame	4	(using 0:52) Love it.
Low Angle	5	(0:14) Nicely creates a feeling of enhanced size…like the colors as well.
High Angle	3	(using 0:04) This shot does look like the camera was placed in an elevated position, but not enough to truly create the feeling of “looking down” at something.
Close-Up	4	(using 0:08) Effectively isolates a subject from the environment. Point deduction for camera movement.
Extreme Close-Up	0	No example provided
Wide Depth of Field	5	(using 0:18) Love this shot that includes foreground, middle ground, and background

		elements that draw our eye deep into the frame.
Narrow Depth of Field	3	(0:44) I love this shot and it's close to meeting this techniques features, but the background painting would need to be more out of focus.
Choice – Still Photo	4	(0:49) Although not a still photo, I wanted to give points for this shot because it is my favorite of the bunch…kind of a "double frame within a frame shot. Beautiful.
Choice – Still Photo	4	(0:58) A nice concluding shot, especially when it shows the student walking into the frame. Watch for the camera level, as it seems a bit too tilted. Not a still but wanted to give some points.

Total Points Composition (out of 60) = 44

II. Editing

	Score	*Comments*
Editing – 20 pts max	17	Solid presentation overall, but the shots were edited out of order. Would like to see a bit more evidence of cutting to the beat/rhythm of the song. Includes the required opening cut from black, evidence of crossfade transitions, and cleanly fades to black at the end. Missing still image animations.

III. Creativity and Effort

	Score	*Comments*
Creativity and Effort - 10 pts	7	While you clearly have a strong eye for composition overall, not following the assignment guidelines made this a very challenging project for me to grade. I had to "guess" what composition technique each shot represented, and I hope I did a decent job of it. All the required elements for this assignment are explained in the assignment guide and in the assignment submission link instructions, including the requirement to select a specific campus building to use as a subject. It seems your subject is the entire campus. My intention was to focus your shot choices on finding details that make your subject building unique and to

		tell it's "Story." While I enjoyed many of the shots you captured, I was hoping for a more targeted and intentional approach. If you have questions about any of the assignments for this class, please let me know in advance.

IV. Delivery

	Score	*Comments*
Delivery 10 pts	7	Late submission (8 days). Video link was also submitted through the "Photoshop Introduction Assignment" link rather than the "Composition Assignment" link.

Final Grade (100 pts total) = 75

*Moving forward, let's try to work together so I can do a better job of communicating assignment requirements with you. Perhaps emailing me with specific questions/concerns as they come up may be more effective.